



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

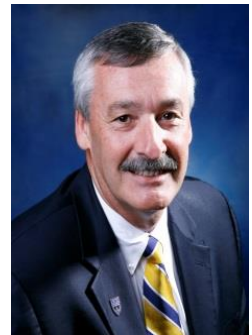
OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

(NOTE: The agenda and materials for all Kentucky Board of Education meetings can be found on the board's online materials site at: <http://portal.ksba.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&AgencyTypeID=1>. Also, a recording of the October 6 session can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx>.)

Volume 23, No. 5 -- Report of the October 6, 2015, Regular Meeting

COMMENTS FROM ROGER L. MARCUM, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR: BOARD HIRES KENTUCKY'S SIXTH COMMISSIONER

As culmination of a five-month search process, the Kentucky Board of Education ratified Dr. Stephen Pruitt's contract on October 6 as the sixth commissioner of education. Board members were unanimous in the decision to hire Dr. Pruitt and as I have expressed previously, we are fortunate to have someone of his caliber who wants to come to Kentucky and help us continue the outstanding progress made by our school districts over the last six years.



Though Stephen Pruitt is not a native Kentuckian, he is truly excited about moving to our state to work and make a home for his family. He, more than any other candidate, displayed the list of characteristics desired for the next commissioner that the board set out at the beginning of the search process. During our interactions with him in the interview process, it was quite evident that he has outstanding communication skills, academic experience, in-depth understanding of education issues, emphasis on collaboration, ability to build relationships, proven track record of building coalitions and partnerships, approachability and enthusiasm – especially for Kentucky and the future of Kentucky.

I encourage each of you to get to know Dr. Pruitt and reach out to support him in his efforts to focus on doing what is best for students to prepare them for success in the 21st century. As a former classroom teacher, state administrator, and vice president for a nationally-known education non-profit, preparing students for success is the agenda he brings to Kentucky. If we all keep our hearts and minds on that agenda, there is no limit to the difference we can make for our young people as well as in the economic development of our state.

NEW KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER SWORN-IN

At the October 6 meeting, Sarah M. Ford was sworn-in as the newest member of the Kentucky Board of Education. Ms. Ford was appointed by Governor Steve Beshear to fill the vacancy created by Trevor Bonnstetter's resignation.



Ford is from Owensboro and is Vice President of Scott and Murphy, Inc./Hartz Contracting. She is a graduate of Bowling Green High School, the University of Kentucky (undergraduate degree) and Western Kentucky University (master's degree). Ms. Ford serves on the Owensboro Health Foundation Board of Directors, Riverpark Center Board of Directors, Daniel Pitino Shelter Board of Directors and the Diocese of Owensboro Finance Council.

For more information on this topic, contact Mary Ann Miller at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840.

STATE BOARD SETS FUNDING PRIORITIES

In order to meet deadlines for submission of the budget, the Kentucky Board of Education approved its funding priorities for the 2016 legislative session.

Acknowledgement was made early in the discussion that funding of the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (KTRS) would be the central education focus but board members emphasized that it is essential to maintain the current SEEK per pupil funding level. In addition, agreement was reached on the following priorities:

- Expand career and technical education and college/career readiness opportunities including support for local area vocational centers, project-based learning, dual credit and debt service to upgrade career and technical education equipment
- Expand preschool eligibility to the 200 percent of poverty level
- Develop new state assessments in science and social studies, an enhanced item pool for English/language arts and math assessments and administration of online K-PREP assessments
- Increase SEEK transportation funding to the 80 percent level
- Support low-achieving schools through Education Recovery staff

The board also agreed to make the capital budget request a priority, which includes improvements at the Kentucky School for the Blind, Kentucky School for the Deaf and FFA Training Center.

For more information on this topic, contact Associate Commissioner Hiren Desai at hiren.desai@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-1976, ext. 4302.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS REVIEWED

Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims came before the board to summarize the 2015 test results and to clarify the role of the percentile rank process as part of Kentucky's continuous improvement model. She explained that this process was used to set the standard or cut score for the school and district classifications of Needs Improvement, Proficient or Distinguished and noted that the percentile rank process provides a concrete goal with the locked overall score that is not dependent on how other schools or districts perform.

Sims went on to explain that to see how the overall scores of schools and districts compare for the current and prior year and their associated rank by level, an accountability tab is available in the Open House section of the KDE website at <http://openhouse.education.ky.gov/Data>.

Relative to good news on the accountability results, Sims highlighted the following:

- The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate has gone from 86.1 in 2013 to 87.5 in 2014 and 87.9 in 2015.
- The percentage of graduates college- and/or career-ready was at 47.2% in 2012, 54.1% in 2013, 62.5% in 2014 and 66.8% in 2015.
- 355 schools and 47 districts were classified as Distinguished and 349 schools and 73 districts were classified as Proficient.
- 10 schools exited Priority status and two Distinguished schools that are in Priority status were noted as "monitoring only".

For more information on this topic, contact Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims at rhonda.sims@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-2256, ext. 4751.

BOARD UPDATED ON NOVICE REDUCTION WORK

Associate Commissioners Kelly Foster and Amanda Ellis brought the board up-to-date on the latest Novice reduction work that has been rolled out. The following was shared:

- KDE has hired a Novice Reduction Coordinator and five regional Novice Reduction Coaches.
- These Novice Reduction staff have received training and made contact with districts to implement strategies for closing achievement gaps.
- The Novice Reduction strategies were introduced to districts at the Continuous Improvement Summit in September.
- The interactive website for Novice Reduction was launched on October 1 and can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/school/stratclsgap/Pages/default.aspx>.
- KDE is piloting the Novice Reduction work with the following districts: Fayette, Lawrence, Jenkins Independent, Christian, Silver Grove Independent and Menifee.
- Novice Reduction staff are in the process of working with cooperatives and key partners to share this work and its intended outcomes.
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For more information on this topic, contact Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster at kelly.foster@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-5130, ext. 4001 or Associate

Commissioner Amanda Ellis at amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-9850, ext. 4151.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING WERE:

- Minutes from the August 5-6, 2015 Retreat and Regular Meeting
- Kentucky School for the Blind Advisory Board Appointment
- Kentucky Tech System Policies and Procedures
- New District Facility Plans for Barren County, Franklin County, Knox County, Jessamine County, Bowling Green Independent, and Silver Grove Independent
- Site Approval for the Proposed New Elementary School, Perry County
- Waiver Request of 702 KAR 4:050, Section 4(4)(a), to Allow for Site Approval for the Proposed New High School in Martin County
- 2015-2016 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- Leo Calderon's Travel to SREB and Roger Marcum's travel to NASBE

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED AT THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING WERE:

- The Kentucky Board of Education's Legislative Agenda for the 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly
- Hearing Officer's Report
- 705 KAR 2:140, Equalization of Funding for Locally-Operated Area Vocational Centers and Vocational Departments (First Reading)
- Kentucky Core Academic Standards Challenge Update
- Update on the Kentucky Education North Star Project
- Audit Update
- Status Update on School Districts in State Assistance
- Status Update on Districts in State Management
- KDE Employment Report (All offices except Office of Career and Technical Education)
- KDE Employment Report (Office of Career and Technical Education only)

KBE MEETING DATES FOR 2015, 2016, AND 2017

KBE Meeting Dates for 2015

December 9, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
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KBE Meeting Dates for 2016

February 3, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 13, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 8, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2016	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2016	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion & Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort

KBE Meeting Dates for 2017

February 8, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 12, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 7, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2017	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 3-4, 2017	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion & Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the October 6, 2015, regular meeting, conducted in Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Kentucky Board of Education Executive Director, at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840.

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